

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PA-01 ICAE-00 SS-15 INRE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, SOPN (MAY, CLIFFORD)
SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR HEARST NEWSPAPERS
ACCREDITATION IN MOSCOW

REF: (A) STATE 169180, (B) STATE 165903

1. WE HAVE PUT QUESTION TO MFA PRESS DEPARTMENT,
AND HAVE TENTATIVE MEETING SET FOR MORNING OF JULY
7 AT WHICH TIME WE EXPECT TO RECEIVE CONSIDERED
REPLY.
2. WE HAD NOT TREATED THIS QUESTION ON URGENT BASIS
BECAUSE MAY HIMSELF SEEMS RATHER UNCONCERNED ABOUT
LACK OF ACCREDITATION AND BECAUSE HE HAS ASKED
SECOND QUESTION OF MFA, NAMELY ABOUT ATTITUDE TOWARD
POSSIBLE OPENING OF HEARST BUREAU IN MOSCOW, TO WHICH
HE HAS NOT YET RECEIVED A REPLY.
3. MAY GETS IMPRESSION SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON
MAY NEVER HAVE COMMUNCIATED WITH MFA REGARDING
HEARST'S INTEREST IN HAVING MAY ACCREDITED AS
NON-RESIDENT OCRRESPONDENT. (MAY SAYS HEARST HIMSELF
PERSONALLY WROTE TO DOBRYNIN.) MAY, UPON
ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW, MADE VERBAL RPT VERBAL
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REQUEST FOR ACCREDITATION TO LOW-LEVEL MFA PRESS
DEPT OFFICIAL (VOZNIKOV) WHO WAS INITIALLY OPTIMISTIC
BUT FINALLY TOLD MAY JUNE 28 THAT ANSWER WAS "NO."
VOZNIKOV DECLINED TO GIVE REASON FOR DENIAL, AND
ONLY THING TROUBLING MAY IS THAT LACK OF RATIONALE-
HE IS UNSURE WHETHER "NO" IS DIRECTED AT HIM PERSON-
ALLY (WHICH HE DOUBTS AND WHICH OTHER CONTACTS AT

NOVOSTI HAVE TOLD HIM IS NOT THE CASE), AT HEARST, OR SIMPLY AT UNPRECEDENTED REQUEST (ALL OTHER ACCREDITED AMERICAN JOURNALISTS MAINTAIN OFFICES IN MOSCOW, INCLUDING NBC). WE WILL ATTEMPT TO PIN MFA DOWN WHEN OUR MEETING TAKES PLACE, BUT WE INCLINE TOWARD VIEW THAT "NO" MAY HAVE BEEN UNCONSIDERED BUREAUCRATIC RESPONSE WHEN FACED WITH REQUEST FOR WHICH THERE EXISTS NO SUITABLE PRECEDENT.

4. MEANWHILE, MAY HAS BEEN RECEIVING GOOD COOPERATION FROM NOVOSTI AND HAS TRIP SCHEDULED WITH ASSISTANCE OF THAT ORGANIZATION FOR LATER THIS MONTH THAT WILL TAKE HIM TO CENTRAL ASIA AND SIBERIA. HE HAS BEEN EXPERIENCING ABSOLUTELY NO DIFFICULTIES IN CARRYING OUT HIS JOURNALISTIC WORK.

5. WHEN MEETING WITH MFA TAKES PLACE, WE INTEND ALSO TO RAISE ISSUE OF UPI CORRESPONDENT ROLAND TYRELL, FOR WHOM VISA WAS REQUESTED MAY 19 AS REPLACEMENT FOR JUST-DEPARTED PEGGY POLK. UPI IS CURRENTLY DOWN TO TWO MEN (STANGLIN BEING ON VACATION) AND HAD HOPED SOVIETS WOULD GRANT TYRELL VISA BEFORE POLK'S DEPARTURE. TOON

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